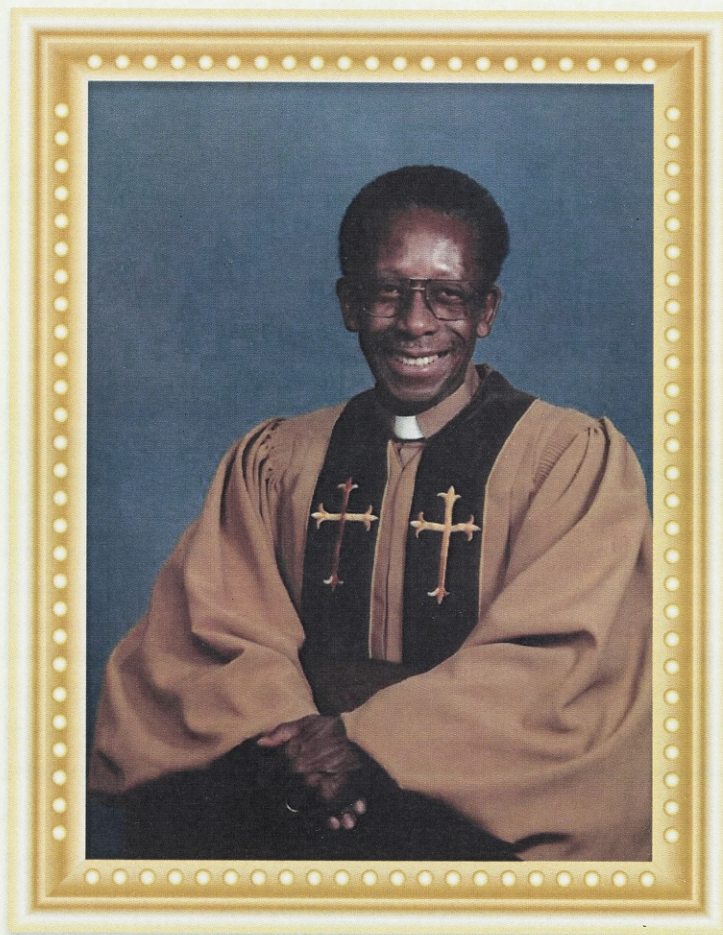


# Homegoing Celebration for



## ELDER SOLOMON IRVING

AUGUST 31, 1929 - APRIL 6, 2016

PROGRESSIVE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
2251 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA. 95832

Monday April 18, 2016 at 10:30 am

Officiating  
Superintendent Bennie L. Toliver



# OBITUARY



Elder Solomon Irving was born the seventh of twelve children to the union of Elder Leslie Irving and Mary Irving on August 31, 1929 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost at the age of 17; and at that time, God called him to the ministry. Playing the trumpet and piano, he was known as one of the Irving Brothers, all gifted young men of God, who played and preached throughout the state of California. They were well known for their dynamic preaching and their anointed singing and playing. He was licensed as a minister December 21, 1953 and became an Ordained Elder in the Church of God in Christ on January 17, 1959.

On January 17, 1950 he left the family farm in Tulare, California and joined the United States Air Force. When he left Tulare, he broke many a girl's hearts. He was stationed at Shepherd Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas for basic training. He worshipped at Jackson Memorial Church of God in Christ, and became known as the trumpet playing minister, sought after by the single young ladies at the church, except for the one he had an eye on. She was an usher who said she would never marry a preacher, so she tried her best to ignore the handsome charismatic minister. But every Sunday he would tease her, while she stood on her post in her usher uniform, by whispering in her ear, "Do your feet hurt, little sister?" And even though Laura shunned him, her mother, Missionary May DeVaughn and her father, Deacon Clarence DeVaughn, saw something in him. Her mother and father loved the young preacher and invited him to dinner on Sundays. Eventually he won Laura's heart and on November 4, 1950, they started a loving and wonderful journey that lasted 65 years here on earth.

To that union came four children; Deborah, Solomon Jr., Sheila and La Von. He imparted upon his children a passion for seeking knowledge and understanding, the appreciation of God's creation by instilling in them a love of traveling, and the wisdom to serve God with all of their gifts and talents. Because of this, his son is a faithful Deacon, and all of his daughters are Missionaries serving the Church of God in Christ. He was the embodiment of a true Father's love, which showed his children how much God loves them.

Elder Solomon Irving graduated from Tulare High School. After leaving the military, he graduated and obtained an Associate Degree from El Camino College in Los Angeles. He served in the United States Air Force for 24 years achieving the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. His military career carried him around the United States including Alaska and overseas to Guam, the Philippines, and Japan and during the Vietnam War, he served in Thailand. He also served as the first enlisted Commander of an Air Force Field Training Detachment at George Air Force Base in Victorville, California. He was in charge of personnel training for the F-4 Fighter, B-52, and KC-135 Refueling Aircraft. In 1974, he retired from the United States Air Force with an Honorable Discharge. He then went to work at Northrop Aircraft Company in Los Angeles as part of the Research and Development team for the F-18 Fighter Aircraft and the B-2 Stealth Bomber. While on the development team for the Stealth Bomber, the family would try to reach him, but were told by his secretary, "Sorry, Mr. Irving is in the 'Black Hole' and cannot be reached." You see, the Stealth Bomber was a military top secret project and all meetings, location of the meetings and all data were top secret. So whenever he was in a meeting, it was referred to as the 'Black Hole'.



God called Elder Irving to be a pastor and to serve even during his military career. He pastored Grove Street Church of God in Christ, in Champaign, Illinois while stationed at Chanute Air Force Base for seven years. While there, he was appointed State YPWW President, District Superintendent of the Peoria District in Illinois and served as State Secretary to Bishop C.W. Gillespie of Carbondale, Illinois. He served as a Minister to the foreign missions on the Island of Guam and in Japan. He also hosted his own Gospel radio program while he was stationed at Plattsburg Air Force Base in the state of New York. While serving in Thailand during the Vietnam War, he pastored a mission in Kilosip, Thailand. Elder Irving was able to take his wife to Thailand and visit that mission, during one of their many cruises. On December 29, 1982, Elder Solomon Irving became Pastor of Williams Memorial Church of God in Christ.

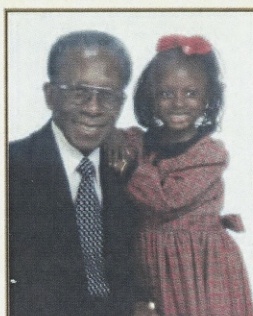
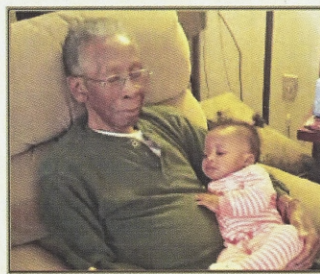
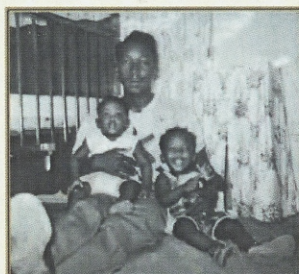
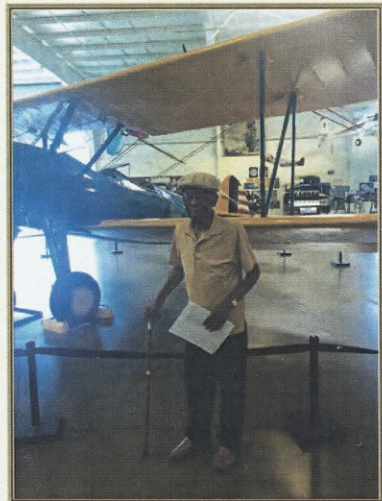
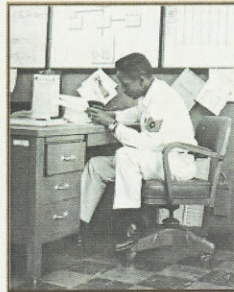
Elder Irving was a full-time Pastor at Williams Memorial for 21 years. Under his pastorate the church outreach was enhanced through programs such as Jail Ministry, Street Ministry, Food Closet and Food Basket programs, feedings for the hungry, family counseling, job information, and Pastoral visitations to the unchurched. Many auxiliaries were added to the church including the Nurses Unit, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Children's Church, and a Youth Pastor. Church administration was computerized and audio/visual equipment acquired for the teaching staff. Many improvements were made to the sanctuary, along with a new sound system, sound room, and stage lights to enhance *The Move of the Spirit* television broadcast that Pastor Irving started in June 1996. Also, a Prayer Chapel was added where the Pastor and saints could go for quiet prayer. The kitchen was remodeled and equipped with a new pantry. The ladies lounge was completed and furnished complete with a nursery to accommodate small children. Dividers were installed in the multi-purpose room providing additional classroom space. A new storage building was built, and the back-lot cleared resulting in a beautiful park with picnic tables. The Sunshine Committee was formed, where members' birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and other special occasions that pertain to a church member were remembered.

After he retired from pastoring, Elder Irving joined Pastor William O. Litton at Praise and Worship Church of God in Christ. He served as Senior Elder, highly respected by Pastor Litton; he encouraged the Praise and Worship family to stay with God, serve God and to follow the leadership of Pastor Litton. The church often heard him say *"It's a wonderful thing to know and serve Jesus."*

Elder Irving's upbringing and years of faithful service speak to his commitment, to his calling and to the Church of God in Christ. He was indeed a dedicated, anointed, and devoted man of God who preached the Gospel, a well-qualified teacher, and counselor. He was often called *"The Preacher's Preacher"*. He was a humble man and although he was small in stature, he was a giant in Christ. He had a big heart and was a lover of people. He was indeed BIG in our eyes and we were truly blessed that God placed him among us! 1 Samuel 2:35 states *"And I will raise me up a faithful Priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed forever."*

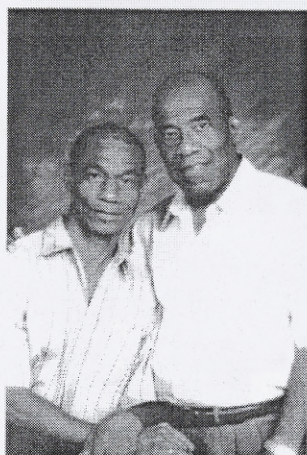
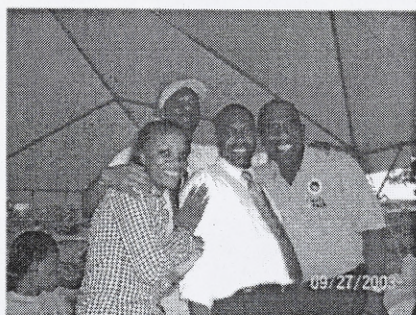
Elder Solomon Irving leaves to cherish his memories, his devoted and loving wife, Laura (He called her *Puddin'*), his brother, Bishop Samuel Irving ( Ella Rene) of Portland, Oregon, sisters Martha Gill of San Mateo, CA and Dorothy Moore (Joe) of San Leandro, CA, his children, Deborah Madden (Richard), Solomon Irving Jr., Sheila Irving and La Von Irving-Kennedy, all of Sacramento. Seven grandchildren, Michele Irving, Rachel Mann (Cory), Solomon Irving III, Jeremiah Irving, Corinthia Irving, Michaiiah Kennedy, and Joseph Irving. Three great grands, Dante, Josiah and Danielle. And a host of nieces, nephews, saints and friends.







# Memories





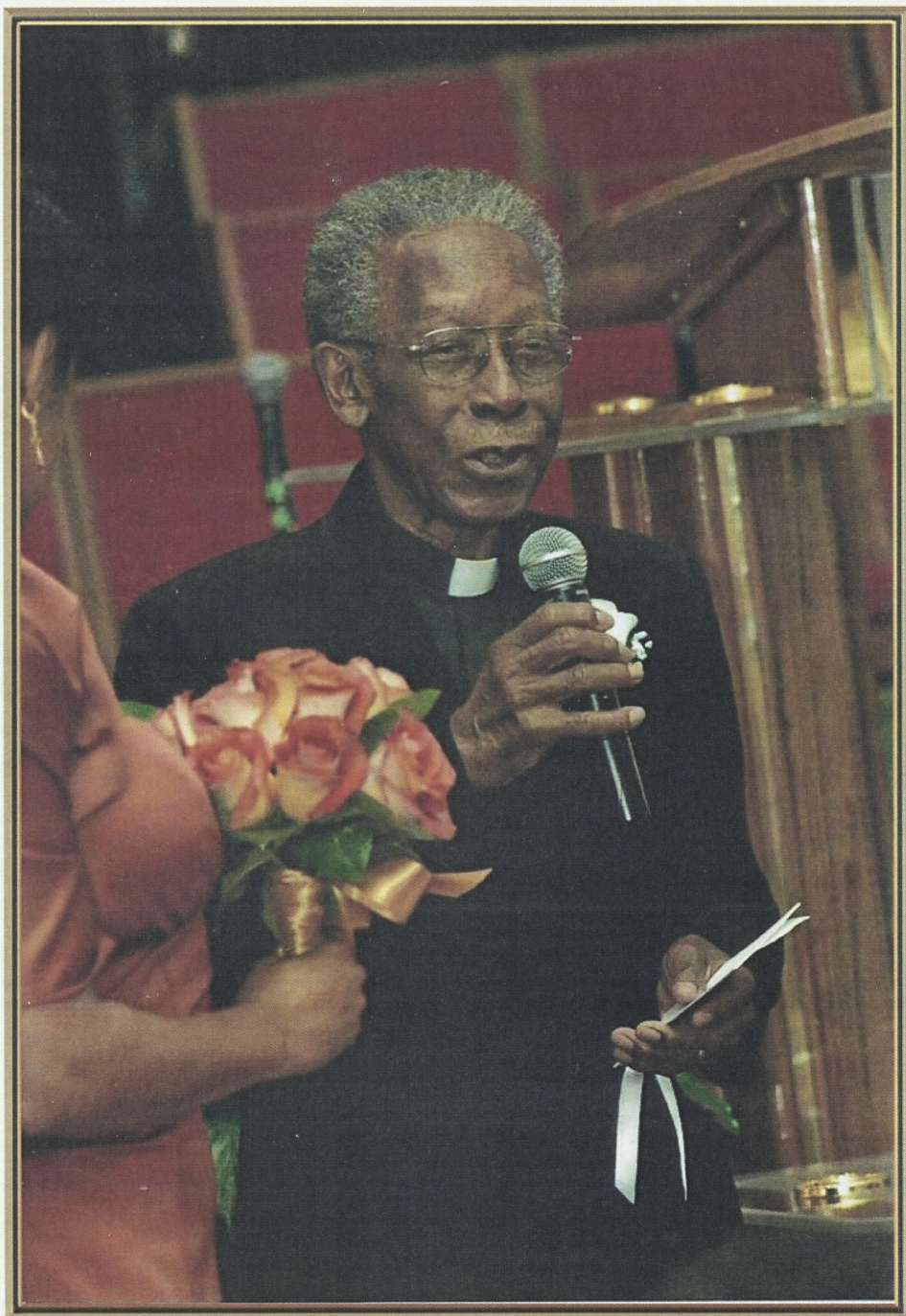
# Memories













# ORDER OF SERVICE



**OFFICIANT: SUPERINTENDENT BENNIE L. TOLIVER**

Quiet Moments - Organist

Processional

Call to Worship:

Superintendent Bennie L. Toliver

Hymn of Comfort:

Sacramento District Choir

Invocation

Old Testament:

Superintendent H. Emanuel Irving

New Testament:

Bishop Marcus Irving

## EXPRESSIONS FROM THE CLERGY

Elder Earl Walker

Pastor Robert Reynolds

Superintendent Itasker Hollins

Pastor C.L. Hutchinson

Elder Kenneth Ford

Superintendent Darnell Thomas

## EXPRESSIONS FROM PRAISE AND WORSHIP COGIC

Sister Vicki Napper

Deacon Harold Warden

Resolutions:

Sister Antoinette Willis

Selection:

Sacramento District Choir

## EXPRESSIONS FROM THE FAMILY

Elder Leslie Irving

Sister Dorothy Irving

Grandchildren

Missionary Sheila Irving

Deacon Solomon Irving

Cards and Acknowledgements:

Sister Vivian Irving

Reading of the Obituary:

Sister Geri Wesley

Transfer of Membership

Bishop Samuel Irving

Sermonic Solo:

Elder Marlon Irving

Eulogy:

Bishop Nathaniel Bullock

Parting View

The Sealing of the Bier



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Elder Solomon Irving, wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many prayers, flowers, cards, telephone calls, support and gracious deeds shown to us during this time of bereavement. Thank you for celebrating the life of our Patriarch with us today. Your generosity will always remain in our hearts. We serve and know a mighty God who does all things well. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and we shall in turn pray God's blessings upon you.

- The Elder Solomon Irving Family

## PALLBEARERS

Solomon Irving III

Jeremiah Irving

Joseph Irving

Frank Only

Dana Willis

Deacon Leonard Shelmire

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Deacon Harold Warden

Deacon Glenn Willis

Deacon Joseph Moore

### Internment

St. Marys Cemetery

6700 21st Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95820

Repast - Immediately Following Internment

Progressive Church of God in Christ

2251 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832

Final Arrangements Entrusted To

Morgan Jones Funeral Home

4200 Broadway, Sacramento, CA